

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A Manual of North-American Birds. By ROBERT RIDGWAY. Illustrated by 464 outline-drawings of the generic characters. Second Edition. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1895. 1 vol., large 8vo, 653 pp.

RIDGWAY'S 'Manual of North-American Birds' has proved such a boon to working ornithologists that we gladly welcome a second edition, in which the work is brought up to date and all additions to the North-American avifauna since 1887 are included. The work was, we may remark, originally projected by the late Professor Spencer F. Baird, whose portrait forms the frontispiece to both editions, and was completed by Mr. Ridgway, his pupil; and the magnificent collections of North-American birds and eggs in the National Museum at Washington have been utilized in the descriptions given of the various species and subspecies. In the first edition four new genera were proposed and thirty-nine species and subspecies described as new, to which are added in the present edition two subgenera, *Oreospiza* (type *Fringilla chlorura*, Aud.) and *Arremonops* (type *Embernagra rufivirgata*, Lawr.), and ninety-one species and subspecies, chiefly the latter, as is the case in most American ornithological publications of the present day, for the number of the former amounts only to nineteen, all the rest being subspecies.

The main portion of the work differs but little from the first edition, even the original pagination having been retained, the alterations consisting chiefly of revision of the specific names; and the new species and subspecies are all given in the Appendix, except in the case of twelve, which were included in the analytical keys, where it was only necessary to change the typography of the names and prefix the catalogue-number of the American Ornithologists' Union's 'Check-list of North-American Birds.' Consequently the new matter is almost entirely confined to the Appendix.

Three species are expunged from the list—*Æchmophorus Clarkii*, as being almost certainly only the female of *Æ. occidentalis*; *Synthliboramphus wumizusume*, as not belonging to the North-American avifauna; and *Dolichonyx oryzivorus albinucha*, as being a bad subspecies. Amongst the species added to the list since the publication of the last edition are several game-birds which have been introduced, viz. *Tetrao tetrix*, which has been introduced into Newfoundland and is said to be naturalized there; *Chrysolophus pictus* and *Gennæus nycthemerus*, which have been introduced into Western Oregon; and *Chrysolophus Amherstiae*. *Numenius arquata* is included as having been said to have been taken on Long Island, and *Falco tinnunculus* is also added, but it is not stated on what ground. Our European Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus*, is included as a subspecies (*Cuculus canorus telephonus*), and is said to occur accidentally on

St. Paul's Island, Bering Sea. Four subspecies of Shore-Larks are added, but with the exception of one, viz. *Otocoris alpestris insularis*, Towns., which is resident in the islands of San Nicolas, San Clemente, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa, Southern California, these are included in the Brit. Mus. Cat. of Birds (vol. xiii.). Of the numerous species and subspecies added to the North-American list only one species, *Megascops hastatus* (p. 593), from the vicinity of Mazatlan and possibly from Lower California, and one subspecies, *Cardinalis cardinalis floridanus* (p. 606), from Florida, are described as new; but a considerable number are not included in the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum,' besides those already mentioned, viz.:—*Tympanuchus americanus Attwateri* (Bendire, 'Forest and Stream,' xi. no. 20, p. 425, 1893); *Megascops asio cineraceus* (Ridgway, 'Auk,' xii. p. 390, 1895), from North-western Mexico and contiguous portion of the U. S.; *Megascops asio Aikeni* (Brewer, 'Auk,' viii. p. 390, 1895), from the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and New Mexico; *Megascops asio Macfarlanei* (Brewster, *tom. cit.* p. 140), from between the eastern slope of the Cascade Mountains and the western slope of the Rocky Mountains in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana; *Megascops asio saturatus* (Brewster, *tom. cit.* p. 141), from the shores and islands of Puget Sound &c., north to Vancouver Island, New Westminster, and Comox, south along the coast to Portland, Oregon; *Megascops flammeolus idahoensis* (Merriam, N.-Am. Fauna, no. 5, p. 96, pl. i., 1891), from the mountains of Idaho; *Glaucidium Hoskinsii* (Brewster, 'Auk,' v. p. 136, 1888), from the mountains of southern Lower California; *Melanerpes formicivorus aculeatus* (Mearns, 'Auk,' vii. p. 249, 1890), from Western Texas to Arizona, and south through mountainous parts of North-west Mexico; *Contopus Richardsonii peninsulae* (Brewster, 'Auk,' viii. p. 144, 1891), from southern Lower California; *Empidonax cineritius* (Brewster, 'Auk,' v. p. 90, 1888), from Lower California and North-western Mexico, south to Mazatlan; *Empidonax griseus* (Brewster, 'Auk,' vi. p. 87, 1889), from Lower California and Western and Central Mexico, Southern Arizona; *Aphelocoma californica obscura* (Anthony, Proc. Cal. Ae. Sci. 2nd ser. ii. p. 75, 1889), from the San Pedro Mountains, Lower California; *Spinus tristis pallidus* (Mearns, 'Auk,' vii. p. 244, 1890), from Arizona; *Pooecetes gramineus affinis* (Miller, 'Auk,' v. p. 404, 1888), from Western Oregon; *Ammodramus Henslowii occidentalis* (Brewster, 'Auk,' viii. p. 145, 1891), from Dakota; *Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus* (Dwight, 'Auk,' iv. p. 233, 1887), from the marshes of southern New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and probably Nova Scotia, and southward in migration along the Atlantic coast to South Carolina; *Ammodramus maritimus peninsulae* (Allen, 'Auk,' v. p. 284, 1888), from the west coast of Florida; *Ammodramus maritimus Sennetti* (Allen, 'Auk,' v. p. 286, 1888), from the coast of Texas; *Junco hyemalis Thurberi* (Anthony, 'Zoe,' i. p. 238, 1890), from the mountains of California; *Junco hyemalis pinosus* (Loomis, 'Auk,' x. p. 47, 1893), from the

vicinity of Monterey, California; *Junco Townsendi* (Anthony, Proc. Cal. Ac. Sci. 2nd ser. ii. p. 76, 1889), from the San Pedro Mountains, Lower California; *Amphispiza Belli cinerea* (Townsend, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. xiii. p. 136, 1890), from Ballaenas Bay, Lower California; *Melospiza fasciata graminea* (Townsend, *tom. cit.* p. 139, 1890), from Santa Barbara Island, California; *Melospiza fasciata clementie* (Townsend, *tom. cit.* p. 139, 1890), from San Clemente and Santa Rosa Islands, California; *Melospiza fasciata rivularis* (Bryant, Proc. Cal. Ac. Sci. 2nd ser. i. p. 197, 1888), from the mountain districts of Lower California; *Melospiza Lincolnii striata* (Brewster, 'Auk,' vi. p. 89, 1889), from the coast district of British Columbia; *Pipilo fuscus senicula* (Anthony, 'Auk,' xii. p. 111, 1895), from Southern California and Lower California as far south as 29° at least; *Cardinalis cardinalis canicavulus* (Chapman, Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. iii. no. 2, p. 324, 1891), from South-western Texas south into North-eastern Mexico; *Pyrrhuloxia sinuata Beckhama* (Ridgway, 'Auk,' iv. p. 347, 1887), from Southern Arizona, New Mexico, and contiguous portion of Northern Mexico; *Pyrrhuloxia sinuata peninsule* (Ridgway, *ut supra*), from Southern Lower California; *Progne subis hesperia* (Brewster, 'Auk,' vi. p. 92, 1889), from Southern and Lower California; *Vireo solitarius lucasani* (Brewster, 'Auk,' viii. p. 147, 1891), from Lower California; *Vireo Huttoni obscurus* (Anthony, 'Zoe,' p. 307, 1890), from Oregon to Vancouver Island and the mainland of British Columbia, south to California in winter; *Helminthophila celata sordida* (Townsend, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. xiii. p. 139, 1890), from San Clemente Island, California; *Dendroica aestiva sonorana* (Brewster, 'Auk,' v. p. 137, 1888), from Southern Arizona, Western Texas, and Sonora, Mexico; *Geothlypis trichas ignota* (Chapman, 'Auk,' vii. p. 11, 1890), from Florida and Southern Georgia; *Geothlypis poliocephala Ralphi* (Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. xvi. p. 692, 1893), from the Lower Rio Grande Valley; *Harporhynchus cinereus Mearnsi* (Anthony, 'Auk,' xii. p. 53, 1895), from Western Lower California; *Heleodytes brunneicapillus Bryanti* (Anthony, 'Auk,' xi. p. 212, 1894), from Western Lower California; *Thryothorus ludovicianus lomitensis* (Sennett, 'Auk,' vii. p. 58, 1890), from the Texan side of the Lower Rio Grande; *Thryothorus leucophrys* (Anthony, 'Auk,' xii. p. 52, 1895), from San Clemente Island, California; *Cistothorus palustris Mariane* (Scott, 'Auk,' v. p. 188, 1888), from the salt-marshes of Western Florida; *Cistothorus palustris griseus* (Brewster, 'Auk,' x. p. 216, 1893), from the coast of South Carolina to Northern Florida; *Sitta carolinensis Atkinsi* (Scott, 'Auk,' vii. p. 118, 1890), from Florida; *Sitta pygmaea leuconucha* (Anthony, Proc. Cal. Ac. Sci. 2nd ser. ii. p. 77, 1889), from the San Pedro Mountains, Lower California; *Parus carolinensis agilis* (Sennett, 'Auk,' v. p. 46, 1888), from Bee, Victoria, and Concho Counties, Texas; *Parus hudsonicus Stoneyi* (Ridgway, Man. N.-Am. B. p. 591, 1887), from the Kowak River, Alaska; *Parus hudsonicus columbianus* (Rhoads, 'Auk,' x. p. 23, 1893), from the Rocky Mountains, from the Liard River south into

Montana; *Psaltiparus santarite* (Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. x. p. 697, 1887), from the Santa Rita Mountains, Southern Arizona; *Psaltiparus Lloydi* (Sennett, 'Auk,' v. p. 43, 1888), from the mountains of Western Texas, between the Pecos and Rio Grande; *Regulus satrapa aztecus* (Lawrence in MS.), from the high mountains of Central Mexico; *Poliophtila cærulea obscura* (Ridgway, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. v. p. 535, footnote, 1883), from California, Arizona, &c., and Western Mexico; *Sialia mexicana Bairdi* (Ridgway, 'Auk,' xi. pp. 151-157, 1894), from the Rocky Mountains and south into Northern Mexico; and *Sialia mexicana Anabelæ* (Anthony, Proc. Cal. Ac. Sci. 2nd ser. ii. p. 79, 1889), from the San Pedro Mountains, Lower California.

The plates, containing the outline-drawings of the generic characters, are the same as in the first edition, no alteration or addition having been made. Not a little of the nomenclature will scarcely be adopted in Europe, and some of the subspecies appear to be founded on very trifling differences, at least according to our perhaps somewhat old-fashioned views; but the work is one of extreme utility to working ornithologists, and will no doubt be universally adopted in America as the standard work on the subject.

A Concise Handbook of British Birds. By H. KIRKE SWANN.
London: John Wheldon & Co., 1896.

Judging from the number of works that have recently been published, varying in quality from Lord Lilford's beautifully illustrated 'Coloured Figures of British Birds' to the work on the Birds of Great Britain in sixpenny parts that is to be seen on almost every railway bookstall, the study of ornithology certainly appears to be on the increase in Great Britain. The last work on the subject that we have received is a handy little manual of British Birds by Mr. H. Kirke Swann, small enough to be carried in the pocket, containing short particulars of the habitat, descriptions of the male and female, and notes on the range in Great Britain, and, in the case of the commoner species, a description of the nest and eggs and short particulars of the habits. Of some of the rarer species a short description is given, but of most of these none is vouchsafed, which appears to us to be a mistake, as a short diagnosis to enable a collector to identify any rare straggler that he might obtain would occupy but little space and would add considerably to the utility of the work. Some bad species have been admitted, as, for instance, *Anthus rupestris*, *Parus Dresseri*, and *Troglodytes hirtensis*, the two latter of which, by the way, are treated only as subspecies, and several American stragglers, such as *Elanoides furcatus*, *Querquedula discors*, and *Querquedula carolinensis*, are included on very insufficient grounds. The range of *Turdus torquatus* is given as extending to the south of Europe, whereas in the mountain ranges of southern